

The Honorable Jeff Miller Chairman Committee on Veterans' Affairs U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The enclosed copy of the renewed charter for the Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation is forwarded in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

A similar letter has been sent to other leaders of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs.

Sincerely,

Eric K. Shinseki



The Honorable Bernard Sanders Chairman Committee on Veterans' Affairs United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Eric K. Shinseki



The Honorable Michael H. Michaud Ranking Member Committee on Veterans' Affairs U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Michaud:

The enclosed copy of the renewed charter for the Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation is forwarded in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

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Sincerely,

Eric K. Shinseki`



The Honorable Richard M. Burr Ranking Member Committee on Veterans' Affairs United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Burr:

The enclosed copy of the renewed charter for the Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation is forwarded in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

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Eric K. Shinseki

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CHARTER OF THE VETERANS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON REHABILITATION

- 1. OFFICIAL DESIGNATION: Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation.
- 2. <u>AUTHORITY</u>: The Committee is authorized by 38 U.S.C. § 3121, and operates under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended 5 U.S.C. App. 2.
- 3. <u>OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITY</u>: The Committee provides advice and makes recommendations to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the administration of Veterans' rehabilitation programs under title 38, United States Code.
- 4. <u>DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES</u>: The Committee shall submit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs an annual report on the rehabilitation programs and activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and shall submit such other reports and recommendations to the Secretary as the Committee determines appropriate. The annual report shall include an assessment of the rehabilitation needs of Veterans and a review of VA programs and activities designed to meet such needs.
- 5. <u>OFFICIAL TO WHOM THE COMMITTEE REPORTS</u>: The Committee reports to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
- 6. <u>OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING THE NECESSARY SUPPORT TO THE COMMITTEE</u>: Support for the Committee will be provided by the Veterans Benefits Administration.
- 7. ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS IN DOLLARS AND STAFF-YEARS: The annual cost for operating the Committee is estimated at \$90,000 per year. This operating cost includes approximately 0.6 full-time equivalent staff who will support the Committee. All Committee members will receive travel expenses and a per diem allowance in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulation for any travel made in connection with their duties as members of the Committee.
- 8. <u>DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER</u>: The Designated Federal Officer (DFO), a full-time VA employee, will approve the schedule of Committee meetings. The DFO or a designee will be present at all meetings, and each meeting will be conducted in accordance with an agenda approved by the DFO. The DFO is authorized to adjourn any meeting when he or she determines it is in the public interest to do so.
- 9. <u>ESTIMATED NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS</u>: The Committee is expected to meet at least two times annually.

- 10. <u>DURATION</u>: There is a continuing need for the Committee to assist the Secretary in carrying out the responsibilities under 38 U.S.C. § 3121.
- 11. <u>COMMITTEE TERMINATION DATE</u>: Authorized by law for an indefinite period, the Committee has no termination date.
- 12. <u>MEMBERSHIP AND DESIGNATION</u>: The Committee will be comprised of approximately twelve (12) members. The majority of the Committee's membership will be Special Government Employees. The members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Secretary from the general public. Veterans with service-connected disabilities shall be appropriately represented in the membership of the Committee. The Committee shall also include persons who have distinguished themselves in the public and private sectors in the fields of rehabilitation medicine, vocational guidance, vocational rehabilitation, and employment and training programs. Committee members shall serve for terms to be determined by the Secretary, not to exceed 3 years.

Ex officio members of the Committee shall include a representative from: VA's Veterans Health Administration; VA's Veterans Benefits Administration; the Rehabilitation Services Administration of the Department of Education; the National Institute for Handicapped Research of the Department of Education; and the Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training of the Department of Labor.

- 13. <u>SUBCOMMITTEES</u>: The Committee is authorized to establish subcommittees, with DFO approval, to perform specific projects or assignments as necessary and consistent with its mission. The Committee chair shall notify the Secretary, through the DFO, of the establishment of any subcommittee, including its function, membership and estimated duration. Subcommittees will report back to the Committee.
- 14. <u>RECORDKEEPING</u>: Records of the Committee shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 26 or other approved agency records disposition schedules. Those records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552.

Date: 4/30/2013

15. DATE CHARTER IS FILED:

Approved:

Èric K. Shinseki 🖡

Secretary of Veterans Affairs